

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR, EAGR, SENV, PAHO

SUBJECT:VESICULAR DISEASE LABORATORY

REF: PANAMA 5547

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO THE GOP AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE:

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BEGIN QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTES NUMBERED DREU-312/26 1332-6, DREU-53/26 1332-6 AND DREU-117/26 1332-6 OF DECEMBER 24, 1975, MARCH 5 AND MAY 24, 1976, AND TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NUMBER BLANK OF JULY BLANK, 1976, CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESICULAR DISEASE DIAGNOSIS LABORATORY IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

AS WAS MENTIONED IN THE MINISTRY'S MOST RECENT NOTE, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE HONORABLE EARL L. BUTZ, DURING THE MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

DURING MAY 1976. AT THAT TIME, SECRETARY BUTZ AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A LABORATORY IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION.

SINCE THIS MEETING, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TO THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR THIS PROJECT, THE USE OF CERTAIN FACILITIES NOW USED BY THE GORGAS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, LOCATED IN BUILDING 265, ANCON, CANAL ZONE. THIS STUDY HAS OF NECESSITY REQUIRED AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BECAUSE OF THE VIRULENCE OF THE DISEASE FOR WHICH THE LABORATORY WILL BE TESTING AND THE RESULTING NEED TO MAXIMIZE THE SECURITY OF THE LABORATORY AND THEREBY TO MINIMIZE THE THREAT OF THE LABORATORY TO ITS ENVIRONS.

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE STUDY HAS REACHED A POINT WHERE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSAL IS NECESSARY BEFORE A DECISION CAN BE MADE. ACCORDINGLY, THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE ORGANIZATION OUTLINING THE DETAILS FOR EXECUTING THE PROJECT. ONCE THE REQUEST WITH THE PROPOSAL IS RECEIVED

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE A SINCERE EFFORT TO SEE IF AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED CAN BE CONCLUDED WITH THE ORGANIZATION.

THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO EXPRESS TO THE MINISTRY THE APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE INTEREST AND CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA

FOR THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT PROBLEM.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING) END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT MINISTER PAREDES INFORMALLY HAS A COPY OF THIS NOTE BEFORE THE START OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING ON AUGUST 26.

3. WE HAVE SENT A SIMILAR OFFICIAL MESSAGE TO THE PAHO SECRETARIAT IN WHICH WE COPIED THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME FORM FROM THE PANAMANIAN NOTE.

4. OUR POLICY GOALS IN THIS DEMARCHE ARE:

A. TO HEAD-OFF THE PERTURBATION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING, AND PRE-EMPT CRITICISM OF THE U.S. DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE PANAMANIAN NOTES.

B. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING TO HAVE PAHO OBTAIN THE AUTHORIZATION IT CLAIMS IT NEEDS FOR THE MINISTERS TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.

C. TO SHOW PAREDES THAT HE CAN DEAL WITH THE USG AND TO ALLOW HIM TO RETAIN THE ONLY TANGIBLE GAIN FROM HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON.

5. PLEASE POINT OUT TO ALL CONCERNED:

A. THAT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IS REQUIRED, AND WE STILL BELIEVE THAT SEVERAL QUESTIONS MUST STILL BE ANSWERED
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OR RESOLVED AND THAT THE PROPOSAL'S ACCEPTANCE IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION;

B. THAT WE WILL DEAL WITH PAHO BECAUSE IT IS THE EXECUTING AGENCY ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED;

C. THAT A FORMAL REQUEST FROM PAHO IS A PREREQUISITE FOR ANY DISCUSSIONS IN THE FUTURE AND, INCIDENTALLY, THAT IT BEHOOVES THE MINISTERS TO GIVE PAHO WHATEVER AUTHORIZATION AND DIRECTION IT NEEDS TO MAKE THE REQUEST AND PROVIDE THE INFORMATION;

D. AND THAT THE PAHO REQUEST SHOULD COME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON;

E. WE ARE KEEPING IN MIND THAT NO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY, INCLUDING PANAMA, IS WILLING TO HAVE THIS LABORATORY UNDER PAHO AUSPICES ON TERRITORY UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION. WE WONDER WHY THIS IS SO. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE LABORATORY IN THE CANAL ZONE IS A COMPLETE ANSWER. CAN YOU ALSO ADDRESS YOURSELVES TO THIS QUESTION.

6. FYI: ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE BEEN HAVING WITH THIS PROPOSAL IS JURISDICTION, BOTH ON THE HIGH LEVEL OF SAFEGUARDING THE PRESENT U.S. POSITION IN THE CANAL ZONE AND ON THE LOWER ONE OF THE LABORATORY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CZG IF AND WHEN IT IS SET UP. THIS DEMARCHE SHOULD PLACE THE ACTION IN PREFERRED CHANNELS. FINALLY, KNOW YE THAT YOUR CRY OF PANAMA 5547 HAS BEEN HEARD. THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL RESPONSE, MANDATED BY THE EXIGENCIES OF TIME. KISSINGER

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